

Dear Future Third Graders,

Welcome, welcome, welcome. We, the third grade teachers, are so happy to welcome you to third grade. We have an exciting year of learning planned for each of you. While we know that you are missing your second grade teachers and classmates right now, we want you to know that third grade will be a great year for you.

We hope that you have a fabulous summer, filled with exciting adventures and fun with friends and family, and we know that a big part of a fabulous summer is having lots of good books to read. That is why we put together this list of wonderful books for you to choose from. While we know that there is nothing better than reading your own favorite book, we want to introduce you to a few books that we love.

It is our hope that you will choose to read at least one of these titles during your summer break. Of course you may still read any other books that you like. We would love to talk about your book choice when we meet you in August, so please bring the book that you chose to school with you on the first day of the 2019-2020 school year. Until we meet, happy reading.

Sincerely,
The Third Grade Teachers

Choice #1 Socks by Beverly Cleary LEXILE: 890 Genre: Realistic Fiction

Newbery Medal-winning author Beverly Cleary charms readers with yet another lovable character—Socks, a jealous cat who must learn to share his owners with their new baby.

Socks is one happy cat. He lives the good life with his affectionate owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bricker. Ever since the day they saved him from a life spent in a mailbox drop slot, Socks has been the center of their world. And he always has everything he needs—tasty kitty treats and all the lap room he could want!

But when a new baby arrives, suddenly the Brickers have less and less time for Socks. Little Charles William is the one getting all the attention. Socks feels left out—and to show it, he starts getting into all sorts of trouble! What will it take to make Socks realize just how much the Brickers care about him?

Choice #2 Who Was George Washington by Roberta Edwards LEXILE:720
Genre: Biography

In 1789, George Washington became the first president of the United States. He has been called the father of our country for leading America through its early years. Washington also served in two major wars during his lifetime: the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. With over 100 black-and-white illustrations, Washington's fascinating story comes to life - revealing the real man, not just the face on the dollar bill!

Choice #3 A Big Day for Baseball (Magic Tree House #29) by Mary Pope Osborne, AG Ford (Illustrator) LEXILE: 400 Genre: fantasy/historical fiction/mystery

PLAY BALL! Jack and Annie aren't great baseball players . . . yet! Then Morgan the librarian gives them magical baseball caps that will make them experts. They just need to wear the caps to a special ballgame in Brooklyn, New York. The magic tree house whisks them back to 1947!

When they arrive, Jack and Annie find out that they will be batboys in the game—not ballplayers. What exactly does Morgan want them to learn? And what's so special about *this* game? They only have nine innings to find out!

Choice #4 Thanksgiving on Thursday (Magic Tree House # 27) by Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (Illustrator) LEXILE: 370 Genre: fantasy/historical fiction/mystery

It's a time for giving thanks when the Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie back to 1621 on the first Thanksgiving Day. The Pilgrims ask them to help get things ready. But whether it's cooking or clamming, Jack and Annie don't know how to do *anything* the Pilgrim way. Will they ruin the holiday forever? Or will the feast go on?

Figure 3: Text Complexity Grade Bands and Associated Lexile Ranges (in Lexiles)
Text Complexity Grade

Old Lexile ranges	Ranges aligned to Common Core
K-1 N/A	N/A
2-3 450-725	450-790
4-5 645-845	770-980
6-8 860-1010	955-1155
9-10 960-1115	1080-13

*Book summaries taken from Barnes and Noble's website.

** Lexile levels taken from the Massachusetts Department of Education's website.